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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION FROM

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Economic . Timber industry

DATE OF INFORMATION 1947

HOW
PUBLISHED Monthly periodical

DATE DIST. 7⁰ Nov 1950

WHERE
PUBLISHED Moscow

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE
PUBLISHED Oct 1947

LANGUAGE Russian

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. .

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

Lesnaya Promyshlennost', No 10, 1947

SOVIET TIMBER INDUSTRY PRODUCTION BEFORE WORLD WAR II

In December 1918, Glavleskom (Main Timber Committee) was created to supervise, control, and administer the Soviet timber industry, including the production of firewood. This date marked the beginning of a planned timber industry.

In September 1930, Scyuzlesprom (All-Union Timber Industry) was created within the framework of VSNKh (Supreme Economic Council). Supervision over all forests, except those of purely local importance, and over the entire timber and wood chemical industry was transferred to it.

In January 1932, the People's Commissariat of Timber Industry was created, and the logging, woodworking, furniture, cellulose-paper, and wood-chemical industries placed under its supervision.

Production achievements of the Soviet timber industry during the period up to World War II are shown below.

Logging Industry

Year

Production
(million cu m)

1920-21

65

1926

51.7

1932

164.7

1937

201.5

1940

232.7

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The average annual increase in timber felling during the 13 years of the first three Five-Year Plans amounted to almost 14 million cubic meters.

The relative portion of timber cut in West and East Siberia and the Far East increased from 8.3 percent in 1928 to 22.2 percent in 1940; at the same time, the portion cut in the central part of the European USSR dropped from 46.4 percent to 30.4 percent.

Progress of Mechanization in Logging Work

In 1928 - 1929, the logging industry had 7 motor saws, 126 tractors, 7 steam locomotives, one motor locomotive, and 38 kilometers of narrow-gauge railroad lines; by 1940, the number of transport machines had increased from 134 to almost 10,000; from 1933 to 1940, more than 200 steam and motor locomotives were added. During the 13 years of the first three Five-Year Plans, more than 900 roads, extending more than 23,200 kilometers were built for mechanized haulage of timber.

During the 1946 - 1950 Five-Year Plan, it is planned to build 10,000 kilometers of narrow-gauge railroads, 2,500 kilometers of tractor roads, and 8,500 kilometers of truck roads for the mechanized haulage of timber. These roads are to be built mostly in new logging regions in the basins of the Severnaya (Northern) Dvina, Mezen', Pechora, Kama, Ob', Irtysh, Yenisey, Angara, and Amur rivers. The number of machines in use is to be increased by 40,000 electric saws, 12,000 skidding and hauling tractors, and 470 narrow-gauge steam locomotives.

Lumber Industry

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Production</u> (cu m) |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1927 | 12,347,000 |
| 1932 | 24,427,000 |
| 1937 | 35,785,000 |
| 1940 | 34,831,000 |

The annual increase in output of lumber after the 13 years of the first three Five-Year Plans amounted to 22,464,000 ~~cu m~~ cubic meters; or an average annual increase of 1,728,000 cubic meters.

In 1940, 23.4 percent of total lumber output was produced in West and East Siberia and the Far East.

Woodworking and Furniture Industry

Woodworking Manufactures

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Production</u> (million rubles) |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1926-27 | 100.0 |
| 1932 | 208.2 |
| 1940 | 554.0 (1926-27 prices) |

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Furniture Production

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Production</u> (million rubles) |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1927-28 | 18.4 |
| 1932 | 77.2 |
| 1939 | 316.2 |
| 1940 | 344.8 |

Plywood Industry

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Production</u> (cu m) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1921-22 (16 partly operating plants) | 21,500 |
| 1932 | 423,000 |
| 1937 (36 plants) | 672,300 |
| 1940 (39 plants) | 833,000 |

Match Industry

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Production</u> (cases) |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 1926-27 | 4,170,000 |
| 1932 | 5,643,000 |
| 1937 | 7,163,000 |
| 1940 | 9,992,000 |

Wood Chemical Industry

In 1931, the area covered with trees from which soft resin is tapped was distributed as follows: state industry, 400,000 hectares; industrial cooperatives, 288,000 hectares.

Soft resin output in 1931 was as follows: state industry, 33,100 tons; industrial cooperatives, 13,700 tons.

Rosin output in 1931 by both state industry and industrial cooperatives was 27,600 tons and turpentine oil output was 11,200 tons.

In 1931, 19 state rosin-turpentine plants had a soft resin processing capacity of 8,230 tons per month. There were also seven cooperative plants.

Machine Building and Shipbuilding

Timber industry machinery production by enterprises of Lesosudomashstroy (Timber Industry Ship and Machine Building) Trust amounted to 917 million rubles in 1932 and 54.3 million rubles in 1940.

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Capital Construction

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Amount</u> (million rubles) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1923-27 | 132.4 |
| 1928-32 (First Five-Year Plan) | 1,261.3 |
| 1933-37 (Second Five-Year Plan) | 2,215.0 |
| 1938-40 (Third Five-Year Plan) | 1,247.0 |

Capital construction funds during the years 1932-1937 were expended as follows:

| | <u>Percent</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Construction of new plants | 22.5 |
| Reconstruction of old plants | 30.0 |
| Industrial utilization of forests | 28.3 |
| Housing | 9.4 |
| Other | 9.8 |
| | <u>100.0</u> |

Similar expenditure proportions were maintained during the first years of the Second Five-Year Plan. Only toward the end of the plan and during the third plan was expenditure of funds for industrial utilization of forests increased.

Miscellaneous

Gross production of Narkomles (People's Commissariat of Timber Industry) USSR was valued at 1,709.7 million rubles in 1932 and 2,131.9 million rubles in 1940.

Between 1932 and 1940, 129 logging enterprises and 119 factories and plants were transferred from Narkomles to other organizations.

The number of Narkomles workers was 59 percent greater in 1940 than in 1927. Average output per worker was 57 percent greater in 1940 than in 1932; that of the factory or plant worker was 91 percent greater; that of the logging worker was 30 percent greater.

The average annual wages earned per worker throughout Narkomles were 3.7 times greater in 1940 than in 1932; those of the factory or plant worker were 2.7 times greater, those of the logging worker were more than 4 times greater.

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